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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Public Health Department

For the Year

1961

STEPHEN KNIGHT
M.B., B.S.(Lond.), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health

W. R. WHEELER,
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Rural District Council of Gloucester

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

To the Chairman and Members of the
Rural District Council of Gloucester.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the Annual Report for 1961 on the health, environmental, hygiene and sanitary circumstances of the Rural District. The Report is drawn up in accordance with Regulations 5(3) and 15(5) of the Public Health Officers Regulations, and Ministry of Health Circular 1/62.

I am indebted to the staff of all departments for the material from which it is compiled; sections are contributed by the Engineer and Surveyor, Mr. J. S. Hopkins and the Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. S. W. D. Harris.

As usual for our District, it is again possible to record that the health continues to be good. The population is still increasing; the growth this year being 1,220 of which immigration accounted for 847 persons.

The Birth Rate (19.3) is higher than both the County Birth Rate (18.26) and that of the country as a whole (17.4) while the Death Rate (11.6) is between the County Death Rate (10.9) and the national rate (12.0).

Seventeen babies died under one year of age, the Infantile Mortality Rate being 18.9 as compared with 18.79 for the County and 21.4 for England and Wales. The infantile Mortality Rate is often regarded as an index for assessing the well-being of a community.

The District remained free from outbreaks of serious infectious disease due in large measure to the success of the campaigns for immunisation and vaccination. A sustained effort is necessary to maintain effective levels of immunity so that outbreaks of infectious disease cannot occur.

Good housing is of prime concern in the promotion of health and I am grateful to the Tenants' Selection Sub-Committee for its support in rehousing families when representations have been made on health grounds. Housing has been and still is a most pressing need because of the remarkable increase in population. It is gratifying to note that over 5,000 new houses have been built since April 1945.

The temporary accommodation provided as an emergency measure during the war has become substandard and in the case of Coventry Close, early rehousing of families has become urgent.

The Council and County Council have formulated a plan for rehabilitation of problem families living in Council dwellings. Progress is bound to be slow; it is, however, an active step towards rehabilitation and in conjunction with other measures improvement should come about.

In accordance with Council policy in taking mainwater supply to all parts of the District about 8000 yards of new mains were laid and a further 5000 yards authorised.

The increasing population and extension of piped water supplies call for continued development of arrangements for sewage disposal. At the end of the year the final stage of the Longford Disposal Works was nearing completion as were schemes for Hempsted and Upton St. Leonards.

The administration of the new Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960 entailed considerable expenditure of time and effort by the staff. The Act gives the Council effective control over the regulation and equipment of caravan sites.

I am grateful to members of the Council for their continued support and to the other officers for their co-operation during the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

STEPHEN KNIGHT,

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Committee (31.12.61)

Chairman : T. J. Whitfield

Vice-Chairman : C. J. Steele

Lt.-Col. E. R. P. Berryman, D.S.O., T.D.
R. K. H. Brice
Mrs. B. M. Castle
F. A. Chamberlayne
W. J. Davis
C. J. De Lisle Wells
R. L. Evans
L. E. W. O. Fullbrook-Leggatt, M.C.
W. G. H. James
J. I. Jones
A. E. Keys
Miss O. Lloyd-Baker, C.B.E.
C. G. Mayo
R. T. Merrett
A. N. Odling, O.B.E.
E. J. Pennels
J. H. Western
E. C. Wheeler
P. H. Woodman

Public Health Department Staff

Stephen Knight, M.B., B.S.(Lond.), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. Medical Officer of Health to the Tewkesbury Borough, Charlton Kings Urban District, Gloucester and Cheltenham Rural Districts and County Divisional Medical Officer of Health for the North Gloucestershire Divisional Area.

S. W. D. Harris, C.S.I.B., M.R.S.H., Chief Public Health Inspector and Petroleum Officer.

G. G. Viggers, C.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I., District Public Health Inspector and Rodent Control Officer.

P. M. Jones, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., District Public Health Inspector.

L. S. Scourfield, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., District Public Health Inspector.

F. Greenwood, Rodent Operator.

N. J. Trigg, Clerk.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the District

Area (in acres) : 70,808.

Population (Registrar General's estimated Home Population mid 1961) : 46,570. (This figure includes members of the Armed Forces stationed in the District).

Number of Inhabited Houses (December 31st, 1961), according to rate books : 13,435.

Rateable Value (December 31st, 1961) : £626,764. 10. 0.

Sum represented by a penny rate (March, 1961) : £2,514. 2. 4.

General Rate 1961-62 : 20/7. (County Precept 17/5).

Adoptive Public Health Legislation in force in the District

1. Building byelaws (Public Health Act, 1936, adopted 31st July, 1953).

2. New Streets (adopted 1st April, 1937).

3. Tents, Vans, Sheds and similar structures (adopted 1st September, 1938).

4. Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food and Sale of Food in Open Air (adopted 28th August, 1950).

5. Gloucestershire County Council Act, 1956, Section 141, Water supplies to occupied houses (adopted 1st January, 1957).

Vital Statistics

These statistics give particulars as to the births and deaths in the district, together with certain rates which are compared, where possible, with those for England and Wales, and the County of Gloucester.

A detailed list of the causes of death will be found in Table 4.

Table I

	Male	Female	Totals
Live Births:			
Legitimate	456	402	858
Illegitimate	21	22	43
Total	477	424	901
Live Birth Rate per 1000 population			19.3
Area Comparability factor (births)			0.98
Corrected Birth Rate (19.3 x 0.98)			18.9
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total live births			4.6

	Male	Female	Totals
Still Births :			
Legitimate	8	3	11
Illegitimate	2	–	2
Total	10	3	13
Still Birth Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births			14.2
Still Birth Rate per 1000 population			0.28
Total live and still births			914

Infant Deaths :
(Death of infants under 1 year of age)

	Male	Female	Totals
Legitimate	12	5	17
Illegitimate	–	–	–
Total	12	5	17
(Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age)			
Legitimate	8	4	12
Illegitimate	–	–	–
Total	8	4	12
(Deaths of infants under 1 week of age)			
Legitimate	7	3	10
Illegtiimate	–	–	–
Total	7	3	10

Infant Mortality Rates

Total infant deaths per 1000 total live births	18.9
Legitimate infant deaths per 1000 legitimate live births	20.0
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1000 illegitimate live births	Nil
Neo-natal mortality rate—	
Deaths under 4 weeks per 1000 total live births	13.3
Early neo-natal mortality rate—	
Deaths under 1 week per 1000 total live births	11.1
Perinatal mortality rate—	
Stillbirth and deaths under 1 week combined per 1000 total live and still births	25.2

MATERNAL MORTALITY (including abortion) :

Number of deaths	Nil
Rate per 1000 total live and still births	Nil

DEATHS :

	Male	Female	Totals
	280	248	528
Crude Death Rate per 1000 population			11.6
Area Comparability Factors (Deaths)			1.03
Corrected Death Rate (11.6 x 1.03)			11.9

POPULATION

The Registrar General's estimate of the population is 46,570 as compared with 45,350 the previous year. The increase in the population is of the order of 1000 in each of the post-war years. The natural increase in population, excess of births over deaths, is 393.

BIRTH RATE

There were 901 births during the year, the Birth Rate being 19.3 per 1000 of the population which compares favourably with the rate 17.4 for England and Wales.

DEATH RATE

528 people died during the year, seventy more deaths than during the previous year but even so the Death Rate 11.6 per 1000 of the population is slightly below the national rate 12.0.

INFANTILE MORTALITY

Seventeen infants under one year of age died. The Infantile Mortality is at the rate of 18.9 such deaths per 1000 live births—and is lower than the national average 21.4.

STILL BIRTH RATE

There were thirteen still births, the rate being 14.2 per 1000 total (live and still) births, again comparing favourably with the rate 18.7 for England and Wales.

Table 2. Birth, Death, and Infantile Mortality Rates in the District for the last five years

	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961
Birth Rate (per 1000 population) ..	16·5	19·0	18·0	19·6	19·3
Death Rate (per 1000 population) ..	9·5	11·9	11·2	10·1	11·6
Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1000 live births) (—deaths of infants under 1 year	17·1	25·8	19·0	11·2	18·9
Neonatal Mortality Rate, per 1000 live births (deaths of infants under 1 month)	—	13.5	12·8	8·0	13·3

Table 3. For Comparison, the Birth, Death, and Infantile Mortality Rates for England and Wales etc. are given below

	England and Wales	County of Gloucester	Gloucester Rural District
Live Births	17·4	18·26	19·3
Still Births (per 1000 total, live and still births)	18·7	14·73	14·2
Infantile Mortality Rate, per 1000 live births (deaths of infants under 1 year)	21·4	18·91	18·9
Neonatal Mortality Rate (deaths of infants under 1 month, per 1000 live births)	15.5	13·86	13·3
Death Rate (per 1000 population) ..	12·0	10·9	11·6

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE DISTRICT IN 1961

Table 4 gives the causes of death in the District in accordance with the abbreviated list of 36 groups of the World Health Organisation Nomenclature Regulations, 1948.

Table 4.

	Causes of Death	Male	Female
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	—
2.	Tuberculosis, other	—	3
3.	Syphilitic disease	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	—	—
5.	Whooping cough	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	—	—
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	—	—
8.	Measles	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	1	1
10.*	(Malignant neoplasm, stomach	9	8
11.	(,, ,, lung, bronchus ...	17	3
12.	(,, ,, breast	—	10
13.	(,, ,, uterus	—	4
14.	(Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	28	29
15.	(Leukaemia, aleukaemia	4	1
16.	Diabetes	2	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	32	39
18.	Coronary disease, angina	57	36
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	5	2
20.	Other heart disease	36	54
21.	Other circulatory disease	10	7
22.	Influenza	10	1
23.	Pneumonia	12	13
24.	Bronchitis	11	2
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system ...	5	2
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	—	2
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	2	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	3	3
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	20	17
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	3	3
34.	All other accidents	6	5
35.	Suicide	5	—
36.	Homicide and operations of war	—	—
	Total	280	248

Explanatory Note.

* Neoplasm = Cancer.

Cancer

Table 5. Death Rates from Cancer per 1,000 population

	England and Wales		Gloucester Rural District	
	M	F	M	F
Cancer of the Lung ..	0.871	0.141	0.36	0.06
Other Cancer	1.521	1.810	0.79	1.10

Twenty people of whom seventeen were men, died from cancer of the lung. However, the death rate in the Rural District from Cancer is lower than the national average.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT

Laboratory Facilities

The examination of pathological specimens, and the analyses of milk and ice cream samples, etc., are carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service of the Ministry of Health at the Gloucester Royal Hospital. (There is no charge for this work).

Samples of water and sewage taken by this department, were examined by the Council's Analysts, Messrs. Ellis & Turner, Public Analysts, Gloucester. This laboratory is now closed and such samples are submitted to the City Analyst, Bristol.

Hospitals

Infectious disease cases are admitted to the Isolation Hospital at Over, which is administered by the Gloucester, Stroud and Forest Management Committee.

Child Welfare Centres

These Centres are under the general administration of the County Area Health Sub-Committee.

Meetings of Child Welfare Centres are held at Brockworth, Churchdown, Eastington, Frampton, Hucclecote and Barnwood, Longlevens, Norton, Quedgeley, Upton St. Leonards and Westbury-

on-Severn. There is also a Mobile Child Welfare Centre which serves the Tirley area.

In April this year a centre was formed at Westbury-on-Severn previously served by the mobile centre.

These centres are most useful, nearly all mothers with babies attend. The bulk of the work falls upon the ladies who form the Voluntary Committees and the community is much indebted to them for their devotion to this service.

Home Help Service

This service is organised by the County Council and is provided where the need is supported by the family doctor. Appeals for help should be made to Mrs. A. E. Heard, Assistant Home Help Organiser. Telephone Gloucester 21444.

Fifty-two part time home helps are at work in the district.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 AND 1951

Under these Acts the Council have authorised their Medical Officer of Health to apply, when necessary, to the courts for an order for the compulsory removal of aged and sick persons; living in insanitary conditions, and unable to provide for themselves and not receiving from other people, proper care and attention; to a hospital or residential institution.

During the year compulsory removal was found necessary for one old lady aged 76 who was living alone and had become confused as to time and place. The dwelling was very dirty and hardly any food or fuel was available.

An order was made for the removal of the old lady to a County Council home. With the help of her own doctor the old lady was removed without distress.

Table 6. Notification of Infectious Diseases in 1961 by Age Groups.

Disease	0+	1+	3+	5+	10+	15+	25+	45+	65+	Age N.K.	Total
Scarlet fever	2	1	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	6
Whooping cough	3	5	2	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Measles (excl. G.M.)	44	209	282	439	22	5	3	...	...	...	1004
Ac. Poliomyelitis (paralytic)	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Ac. Poliomyelitis (non-para.)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculosis (respiratory)	...	...	...	...	1	3	7	6	1	...	18
Tuberculosis (meninges, etc.)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculosis (other)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	3
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningococcal infection	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ac. Encephalitis (infective)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ac. Encephalitis (post-inf.)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia neonatorum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	1	5	...	...	...	6
Ac. Pneumonia (prim. or flu')	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	19	...	22
Para-typhoid fever	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Enteric fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Food poisoning	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	3
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2
Malaria (Contr. E. & W.)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	49	215	285	446	25	10	16	12	23	...	1081

Scarlet Fever

Scarlet fever was again light in incidence, only six cases being notified as compared with 23 in the previous year; all were of a mild character.

Whooping Cough

Fifteen cases of whooping cough were notified, no deaths occurred. This disease is particularly dangerous to the young infant but more and more infants are being vaccinated, bringing about a marked decrease in the incidence of the disease.

Measles

Epidemics of measles tend to occur every other year and 1961 was an epidemic year, 1,000 cases being notified.

Diphtheria

The District was again free from diphtheria and no cases have occurred since 1951, a state undoubtedly brought about by the campaign for immunisation against diphtheria.

Acute Poliomyelitis

One case of paralytic poliomyelitis occurred in an unvaccinated child, and happily complete recovery took place.

Paratyphoid

The person suffering from paratyphoid had recently come from the Liverpool area where an outbreak had occurred. Particulars of the case were of assistance to those investigating the original outbreak.

Food Poisoning

Food Poisoning Notifications as returned to Registrar General

1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
—	—	3	—

Agent	No. of outbreaks		No. of Cases	
	Family outbreaks	Other outbreaks	Notified	Otherwise ascertained
Agent not identified	—	—	3	—
Agent not identified (single cases) ..	—	—	—	—

Freedom from outbreaks of Food Poisoning testifies to the high standard of food hygiene maintained in the District by members of the food trades and work of the Public Health Inspectors.

Immunisation against Diphtheria

The following table shows the number of children immunised against diphtheria during 1961.

Table 7.

Age at 31.12.61	Under 1	1	2–4	5–14	Under 15
i.e. born in year	1961	1960	1959-57	1956-47	Total
Primary Immunisation	310	422	129	107	968
Re-Inforcing Injection	—	126	161	630	917

Table of comparison showing the number of children immunised against diphtheria in 1959, 1960 and 1961 and the number of births in 1961.

Table 8.

	No. of live births 1961	Primary Immunisation			Re-inforcing Injection		
		1959	1960	1961	1959	1960	1961
Gloucester Rural District ..	914	990	1027	968	1276	636	917

Generally, the position with regard to immunisation against diphtheria is satisfactory. In the past three years the number of primary immunisations is approximately the same as the number

of births, most of the babies are immunised before they are a year old.

Vaccination against Whooping Cough

The following table shows the number of children vaccinated against whooping cough. A triple vaccine (Diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus) is used in Child Welfare Centres as a routine.

Table 9.

	Under 1 yr.	1 yr.	2–4 yrs.	5–14 yrs.	Under 5
	1961	1960	1959–57	1956–47	Total
Primary vaccination . .	306	418	99	67	890
Re-inforcing injection . .	—	125	141	47	313

Vaccination against Poliomyelitis

It is estimated that 84% of persons under the age of nineteen years of age have been vaccinated against poliomyelitis but only 44% of those between 19 and 40 years of age.

Vaccination against Smallpox

Persons vaccinated in year ended 31st December, 1961.

	Under 1 yr.		1 yr.		2–4 yrs.		5–14 yrs.	
	Vac.	Revac.	Vac.	Revac.	Vac.	Revac.	Vac.	Revac.
Gloucester Rural District	368	—	48	—	22	2	18	5

Comparisons

	Total 1961		Total 1960		Live Births 1961
	Vac.	Revac.	Vac.	Revac.	
Gloucester Rural District . .	482	46	551	84	914

The number of persons being vaccinated for the first time is approximately half the number of births during the year.

This rate of acceptance, although low, compares favourably with many districts.

Tuberculosis

Table 10. This Table shews the new cases, in-transfers and deaths for Tuberculosis, for the past 24 years.

Year	Pop. of District	New & I.T. Cases	Per 1000 Pop.	Deaths	Per 1000 Pop.	Number on Register	Per 1000 Pop.
1938	23,130	31	1·3	19	0·82	130	5·6
1939							
1940		No Annual Report figures available					
1941							
1942	32,100	98	3·0	25	0·79	224	6·9
1943	32,130	58	1·8	22	0·69	276	8·5
1944	32,210	74	2·3	25	0·78	313	9·7
1945	31,480	53	1·7	11	0·35	203	6·5
1946	31,550	53	1·7	17	0·54	176	5·6
1947	31,960	63	1·9	15	0·45	205	6·4
1948	33,540	54	1·6	21	0·62	201	6·0
1949	36,350	65	1·8	16	0·48	205	5·6
1950	35,640	52	1·5	11	0·39	207	5·7
1951	37,360	64	1·7	17	0·45	212	5·7
1952	38,370	70	1·8	6	0·15	243	6·3
1953	37,430	51	1·3	8	0·21	220	5·8
1954	39,140	65	1·6	8	0·20	235	6·0
1955	40,490	75	1·8	3	0·07	274	6·8
1956	41,770	70	1·7	3	0·07	281	6·7
1957	43,000	65	1·5	3	0·07	293	6·8
1958	42,820	50	1·2	3	0·12	293	6·8
1959	43,920	64	1·2	6	0·16	298	6·8
1960	45,350	55	1·2	2	0·05	309	6·6
1961	46,570	51	1.0	4	0.08	280	6.0

Table 11. New, In Transfer cases, Deaths and Number on the Register, 31st December, 1961.

	Respiratory		Meninges & C.N.S.		Other forms		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
New Cases ...	9	9	—	—	—	3	21
In-Transfer Cases ...	16	13	—	—	—	1	30
Deaths	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
On Register 31.12.61	132	114	—	—	10	24	280

Some 280 names are on the register of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

Nowadays in most cases treatment by modern drugs soon eliminates live tubercle bacilli from the sputum of persons suffering from phthisis but in this District there are 23 persons still in the actively infective stage.

Good housing is supplementary to modern treatment in the prevention and spread of tuberculosis and the Housing Committee give priority to the rehousing, if it is necessary, of families of tuberculous patients.

Tuberculosis could be eliminated if the preventive measures were fully implemented i.e. full support for Mass Radiography, B.C.G. vaccination and tracing of contacts.

Problem Families

Forty five families were referred to the County Welfare Officer under the County guarantee scheme for problem families. Under this scheme when arrears of rent are such as to render a family liable to eviction from a Council house, the circumstances are reported to the County Social Welfare Officer whereupon the County guarantee three quarters of the rent if the case is held to be within the scope of the scheme.

In eight of the cases referred, the rent arrears were cleared and the problems in the family resolved, in another four cases the family income was more than adequate and thus held to be outside the scope of the scheme; while at the end of the year supervision was being exercised in thirty three cases.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL AND REFUSE COLLECTION

1. Sewerage

The steady increase of sewage received at the Longford Sewage Disposal Works has made it impossible to maintain an effluent of the quality desired, however, every effort is being made to prevent undue inconvenience.

The final stage of the present extensions to the Works is proceeding well and should be in full operation within a few months. However, as the scheme was delayed for such a long time while

awaiting Ministry approval, it is now considered that the improvements achieved by the present extensions will not be maintained for very long and the Works will again be overloaded. It will, therefore, be necessary to consider the extension of an additional purification section in the near future to ensure that a satisfactory effluent is maintained.

Good progress is being made in the sewerage scheme for Hempsted where the gravity section is now complete and operational house connections are being completed. At Upton St. Leonards, the majority of the mains are now completed but progress here is rather slow.

The numerous parish and council estate sewage treatment plants continue to give satisfactory results. The recently completed modifications to the sewage plant at School Lane, Quedgeley are proving very satisfactory. A revised plan for re-sewering the Tewkesbury Road and Sandhurst Lane areas of Longford is now under consideration.

2. Refuse Collection

As the population of the Rural District continues to increase so, also, does the work of this Department. It was thought that with redundancy taking place in local factories the labour position would have been eased but this, in fact, is not the case. To obtain labour of any type is a problem and the selection of suitable personnel is out of the question. Fortunately there are a small number of established employees on whom we can rely in case of emergency.

Considering the foregoing remarks a very small number of genuine complaints are received in connection with the service. This is, no doubt, partly due to the tolerance and understanding of the public and also to the fact that it is realised that the service provided by the Council is at least equal to that of other rural authorities.

No new additions have been made to the collection fleet since May, 1959 when a 16/24 cu. yd. Compressmore vehicle was put into commission. This large capacity vehicle has proved most useful as it cuts down the mileage per ton factor considerably. One Compressmore type vehicle has had an extensive overhaul and should give trouble-free service for some time. It has now become necessary to increase the load carrying capacity of the fleet by replacing one of the side-loading vehicles with a Compressmore type vehicle. The vehicle to be replaced is one of the original fleet of four trucks

purchased in 1948. This vehicle has recently been used as a spare in the case of breakdown and for certain duties in connection with the Sewage Department.

The salvage scheme continues satisfactorily although the price received for some of the saleable materials is showing a downward trend.

J. S. HOPKINS,
Engineer and Surveyor.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector

A Summary of the visits carried out by the Public Health Inspectors is tabulated below :—

Table 11.

	No. of Inspections	Notices Served		Defects remedied after notice	
		Informal	Formal	Informal	Formal
Dwelling houses ..	482	52	—	31	—
Water supplies ..	216	24	—	19	—
Food premises ..	358	13	—	12	—
Slaughterhouses ..	1125	39	—	36	—
Milk and Dairies ..	19	—	—	—	—
Bakehouses ..	5	1	—	1	—
Factories etc. ..	210	25	—	25	—
Drainage and Sewerage	677	47	—	35	—
Atmospheric pollution	54	5	—	4	—
Infectious disease ..	46	—	—	—	—
Pests ..	49	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous ..	328	38	—	33	—
Caravans ..	331	30	—	23	—
Noise abatement ..	83	1	—	—	—
Total ..	3983	275	—	219	—

Visits and inspections are made for three main reasons:—

To carry out the Council's statutory duties.
To advise the public on environmental health matters.
To investigate complaints received from members of the public.

Contraventions of the various statutory provisions show a sharp increase over the previous year. It is gratifying however, to note the number of cases in which the officers have secured compliance without recourse to formal proceedings.

WATER SUPPLIES

Main supplies in the district are provided by three statutory water undertakings, viz., Gloucester Corporation, Cheltenham Corporation, and Stroud District Water Board, and they supervise the purity and adequacy of their supplies.

In addition there are three smaller undertakings, Gloucestershire County Council, Frocester Estate, and Haresfield Estate, which provide certain of their properties with piped water from storage reservoirs served by hillside springs.

Well Supplies.

Sixteen samples of well water were submitted for analysis and all except two were found to be unsatisfactory.

Appropriate action was taken in each case.

Water Shortages

The Department's water tank trailer was in use during the year.

This ex-W.D. vehicle was purchased in 1948 and has since rendered yeoman service to families in outlying areas whose wells have been affected by both drought and flood.

GLOUCESTER CORPORATION WATER UNDERTAKING

Mains Laid in Rural Areas During 1961, *Gloucester Rural District.*

Parish	Size of Main	Length (yards)
Longford	6″	616
Churchdown	6″	708
,, ...	4″	958
,, ...	3″	254
Brockworth	4″	147
Longlevens	6″	764
,, ...	4″	1144
Hucclecote	6″	963
,, ...	4″	1390
Quedgeley	3″	119
		7063

Lengths of Mains Authorised by Gloucester Rural District Council, but not laid at 31*st December* 1961.

Parish	Size of Main	Length (Yards)
Churchdown	6″	49
,, ...	4″	601
Harescombe	4″	180
Haresfield	4″	1173
Frampton-on-Severn	4″	98
Westbury-on-Severn	4″	1817
Newnham-on-Severn	3″	110
Arlingham	3″	260
Elton	4″	443
Brookthorpe	3″	32
		4763

Main Water Supplies in the District showing the Number of Houses and Population served

Table 12.

Parish	Main Water Supply	Main Supply in House	Stand Pipes Main	No. of Houses
Arlingham	Glos. Corporation	82	—	—
Ashleworth	,,	90	—	—
Barnwood	,,	479	—	—
Brockworth	,,	1680	—	—
Brookthorpe	,,	94	1	6
Chaceley	Chelt. Corporation	18	—	—
Churchdown	Glos. Corporation	1998	—	—
Down Hatherley	,,	8	—	—
	Chelt. Corporation	98	—	—
Eastington	Stroud Dist. W.B.	446	—	—
Elmore	Glos. Corporation	71	—	—
Frampton	,,	318	3	10
Forthampton	Chelt. Corporation	55	—	—
Fretherne-with-Saul	Glos.Corporation	211	—	—
Frocester	Stroud Dist. W.B.	8	—	—
	Private Estate	46	—	—
Hardwicke	Glos. Corporation	242	—	—
Harescombe	,,	23	—	—
	Stroud Dist. W.B.	15	—	—
Haresfield	Glos. Corporation	31	—	—
Hasfield	Chelt. Corporation	25	—	—
	Glos. Corporation	14	—	—
Hempsted	,,	167	—	—
Highnam	,,	152	—	—
Hucclecote	,,	1491	—	—
Longford	,,	340	—	—
Longlevens	,,	2344	—	—
Longney	,,	87	1	5
Maisemore	,,	119	—	—
Minsterworth	,,	135	—	—
Moreton Valence	,,	71	—	—
	Glos. County Council	1	1	1
Newnham	Glos. Corporation	345	1	8
Norton	Chelt. Corporation	81	—	—
Quedgeley	Glos. Corporation	332	2	22
Sandhurst	,,	124	—	—
Standish	,,	11	—	—
	Stroud Dist. W.B.	6	—	—
	Glos. County Council	64	1	—
Tirley	Chelt. Corporation	62	—	—
	Glos. Corporation	1	—	—
Twigworth	,,	54	—	—
Upton St. Leonards	,,	255	2	16
	Stroud Dist. W.B.	2	—	—
Westbury-on-Severn	Glos. Corporation	274	1	1
Whitminster	,,	121	2	5
	Glos. County Council	7	—	—
	Totals	12698	15	74

Water supplies and population served

Total population estimated to be served by mains water — 44,308.

RURAL SANITATION

(a) Cleansing of Cesspools

Instead of merely receiving complaints that cesspools are overflowing the Council now provide a simple and reliable cesspool cleansing scheme tailored to the public health requirements of a scattered rural area.

This form of drainage will give way to modern sewerage as the Council's main drainage schemes progress in the various parishes.

(b) Detergents and septic tanks

On 9th January 1957 Parliament appointed The Standing Committee on Synthetic Detergents to study the effects of synthetic detergents on water supplies and sewage treatment. Owing to the complexity of the problem progress has been slow and during the year the Committee's Fourth Progress Report was issued.

This shows some promise of improvement by the development of "soft" detergents, these are types which break down more readily in sewage treatment and are less liable to pollute water supplies.

The Committee are required to report annually on their progress and they work in close co-operation with similar Committees in America and West Germany. Rural communities are particularly concerned to see an early solution to this international problem.

(c) Sewer-ditches

Sewer ditches in various parts of the District are maintained by the Council in as satisfactory a condition as possible. Regular maintenance prevents them becoming a threat to public health and is a duty laid on the Council by statute. The position is being constantly improved by the provision of piped sewers.

(d) General

677 visits were made by the Public Health Inspectors during the year in connection with unsatisfactory drainage. Parish Councils assisted residents in many cases by calling in the Health Department to give advice.

The Rivers (Prevention of Pollution) Act, 1961 came into force on 27th September 1961. Briefly, the Act brings existing drainage discharges under the same control as that which has applied to new discharges since the principal Act of 1951 became operative.

By a day to be appointed by the Minister, persons who discharge sewage or trade effluents to streams must apply to the River Board for consent to continue them. This matter directly affects environmental conditions in the District and the Council's health officers will continue to work closely with officers of the Severn River Board.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION—CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

All the Council's Public Health Inspectors have been trained in accordance with the requirements of the Royal Society of Health in this field, and particular attention has been paid to fuel technology, the prevention, detection, and remedying of atmospheric pollution, and the installation and instrumentation of industrial furnaces.

This has proved of value during routine inspections of factories, as well as in dealing with complaints from both domestic and industrial sources.

NOISE ABATEMENT

The public health code has been strengthened by the provisions of the Noise Abatement Act, 1960 which came into force on 27th November 1960. Many and varied problems of noise nuisance were dealt with including one affecting residents over a wide area.

Measures for improvement were introduced following consultations with the management. One soon realises that technological progress is not always compatible with man's natural desire to preserve his environment.

CARAVAN SITES

The full effects of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960, became evident during the year, when the Council issued 25 site licences.

The Act empowers the Council to impose conditions concerning hygiene and safety, and controlling the number of caravans permitted.

The public health inspectors were called upon to give advice in many cases, and this resulted in a considerable improvement in the general standard on sites throughout the District.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The year saw a substantial increase in the number of inspections and treatments against rodents. The bulk of this work fell to the Rodent Operator, Mr. F. Greenwood, who also had the task of destroying 26 wasps' nests.

It has been found necessary to extend treatment in the Council's sewers, and this accounts largely for the increase in the total number of inspections.

Table 13.

	Inspections	Treatment
Private dwellings	1501	255
Council houses and hutments ..	230	42
Farms	127	—
Business Premises	69	13
Sewers	178	7
Refuse Tips	2	2
Schools	32	6
Hospitals	—	—
Old Sewage Works	10	2
Other	22	3
Total	2171	340

Details of Work Carried Out on Sewers and Refuse Tips

Table 14.

Sewers etc.	Action taken	Result
	Prebaited and poisoned	
Barnwood	October and November	Satisfactory
Brockworth	October and November	Satisfactory
Hucclecote	October and November	Satisfactory
Newnham	October	Satisfactory

Table 15.

Refuse Tips	Action Taken	Result
Walham	Prebaited and poisoned 2 treatments	Satisfactory

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1960

Table 16.

Type of Business	Total Number	No. of Inspections	Remarks
Cafes and Canteens	93	62	This includes school canteens.
Grocery and Provision shops	98	108	This includes sweet shops and chemists.
Ice Cream Vendors	89	92	Registered under S.16 Food and Drugs Act, 1955. All Ice Cream sold in the district is pre-packed.
Butchers Shops	14	35	Six shops registered under S.16 Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Sausage making.
Fishmongers ...	4	11	This includes fried and wet fish.
Bakehouses ...	2	5	These are mostly small and only supply a small proportion of the population.
Licensed Premises	62	44	The breweries are very co-operative in carrying out improvements recommended.
Dairies	5	8	
Wholesale Premises (Food Manufacture)	2	21	Inspected under Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960.
Total ...	369	386	

A good standard of hygiene was maintained by traders throughout the year. If must be emphasised that efforts by the Council's officers in this connection are no real substitute for vigilance by the shopping public.

The food laws are being constantly revised and, among many safeguards, it must be reassuring to the British housewife to know that persons convicted of certain offences in handling food can be fined £100 together with 3 months imprisonment.

MILK SUPPLIES

The main bulk of the milk produced is either pasteurised in the City of Gloucester or processed at Messrs. Cadbury's factory at Frampton-on-Severn.

The general supervision of dairy farm premises and milk production is now the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Anthrax Order, 1938

One suspected case in a cow was notified, and was not confirmed.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Public Health (Meat) Regulations 1924–52

Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations 1958

Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations 1958

Slaughterhouses

The following slaughterhouses were licensed in 1961.

1. Churchdown, Chapel Hay.
2. Eastington, Alkerton Place.
3. Minsterworth, The Flatt.
4. Brookthorpe-with-Whaddon, Brickhouse Farm
5. Hempsted, Sud Meadow Road.

Since the de-control of slaughterhouses in 1954, the Council have maintained a 100% meat inspection service which has involved working 7 days a week throughout the period.

Increasing use is being made of laboratory facilities for this work and ante-mortem inspection is carried out whenever possible.

The Council's statutory report to the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food was approved during the year without amendment.

Table 17. Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Goats	Horses	Total
Number killed (if known) ..	3154	1075	817	22197	4924	—	—	32167
Number inspected	3154	1075	817	22197	4924	—	—	32167
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis								
Whole carcases condemned	1	—	—	2	3	—	—	6
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	513	275	4	711	246	—	—	1749
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticercosis	16·27%	25·58%	0·49%	3·21%	5·06%	—	—	5·46%
Tuberculosis only :								
Whole carcases condemned	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	5	44	—	—	84	—	—	133
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	0·16%	4·19%	—	—	1·73%	—	—	0·42%
Cysticercosis :								
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	75	9	—	—	—	—	—	84
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ..	75	9	—	—	—	—	—	84
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Total weight of meat or organs condemned for :—

(i)	All diseases except tuberculosis and cysticercosis	12396 lb.
(ii)	Tuberculosis	2537 lb.
(iii)	Cysticercosis	2131 lb.
	Total ..	17063 lb.

(or 7 tons 12 cwt. 1 qr. 12 lb.)

Cysticercus Bovis

Regional Infestation

	Number infested
External masseter muscles	29
Internal masseter muscles	18
Heart musculature	37
Other sites	—

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Condemnation of Foodstuffs

This Department is notified when shops, canteens and individuals suspect that articles of food are unfit for human consumption. Table 18 shows the articles of food condemned during the year.

Table 18.

Article	Non-Preserved lb.	Preserved, tinned, etc. lb.
Meat	—	357
Flour and Cereals ..	—	—
Vegetables	—	154
Fish	14	47
Cheese & Fats	—	—
Fruit	—	593
Cream & Evaporated Milk	—	13
Totals	14	1164 lbs.

The above Table does not include meat condemned at slaughterhouses which is shewn in Table 17.

Ice Cream

No ice cream is manufactured in the District, as it is purchased pre-packed from wholesalers. There are 89 registered premises in the District, and 92 inspections were carried out.

Adulteration

The relevant sections of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, are administered by the County Council.

NEW HOUSING, 1961

Number of dwellings erected during the year:

By the Council:	
Churchdown (Innsworth Grove)	84
Hucclecote (Hillview Road Estate)	12
Fretherne-with-Saul	6
Longlevens (Innsworth Lane Estate)	24
Brockworth (Moorfield Estate)	24
Westbury-on-Severn	6
By Private Enterprise:	557
	713

Council dwellings under construction:

Churchdown (Innsworth Grove)	102
Hardwicke	4
Quedgeley (School Lane)	10
Hucclecote (Colwell Avenue)	13
Frampton-on-Severn	20
Maisemore	4
	153

Housing schemes under consideration:

The Council were proceeding with schemes for the erection of houses in various parishes.

Private enterprise houses under construction at 31st December, 1961	310
Number of Council houses sold to tenants in 1961	7
Total number of dwellings owned by the Council at 31st December, 1961	2015

There were 657 applicants on the Council's housing list at the end of 1961 compared with 842 at the end of 1960.

Housing Progress

Dwellings erected from 1st, April, 1945 to 31st December, 1961:

By the Council and a local housing society	1786
By private enterprise	3653

Statutory action during the year with respect to totally unfit houses

1. Housing Act, 1957, Section 16—Demolition Orders.

(a)	Demolition Orders recommended	8
(b)	Demolition Orders made	8
(c)	Undertakings accepted	1

2. Housing Act, 1957, Sections 16 and 18—Closing Orders.

(a)	Closing Orders recommended	3
(b)	Closing Orders made..	3
(c)	Undertakings accepted	1

3. Housing Act, 1957, Section 42—Clearance Areas.

(a)	Houses demolished in Clearance or Compulsory Purchase Areas	—
(b)	Clearance or Compulsory Purchase Orders made..	—
(c)	Clearance or Compulsory Purchase Orders under consideration	—

The emphasis in this work has been in encouraging owners to recondition their houses whenever possible.

Administration of the Factories Acts, 1937 to 1959

Table 19.

1. Inspections for the purpose of provisions as to health.

Premises	No. of premises in Register	No. of Inspections	No. of Written Notices	No. of Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ..	10	12	1	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority. ..	93	167	24	—
(iii) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers). ..	29	31	—	—
Total	132	210	25	—

Table 20.

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases where defects were found				No. of Cases in which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M.I.	Referred by H.M.I.	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	23	23	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temp (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Vent. (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Latrines (S.7)					
(a) insufficient	2	2	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
(c) not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including Homework).	—	—	—	—	—
Total ..	25	25	—	—	—

Table 21. Outwork (Sections 110 and 111).

Nature of work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. outworkers in Aug. list as req'd.	No. of cases of default in sending lists	No. prosecutions for failure to supply lists	Cases of work in Unwholesome premises	Notices Served	Prosecutions
Wearing Apparel (making) Total	—	—	—	—	—	—
	(No reports of outworkers were received during the year)					

S. W. D. HARRIS,

Chief Public Health Inspector.